

CLAIMS:

1. A method for an entity to allow an individual to make a compensatory payment in return for said individual using a file-sharing service to download of one or more files containing copyrighted content, comprising in o:
 - a) creating a contract between an entity and a second payment receiver, said entity being identified as a first payment receiver,
 - b) obtaining a registration from an individual, said registration including at least one item of identifying information of said individual, said at least one item of identifying information being used by said entity to identify files containing copyrighted content which have been downloaded by said individual, said identifying information also being used to contact said individual,
 - c), assigning a monetary amount to at least one category of file containing copyrighted content,
 - c) charging said individual said monetary amount in return for said individual previously downloading one or more files containing copyrighted content, and
 - d) receiving from said individual said monetary amount, said monetary amount constituting a compensatory payment for said at least one file containing copyrighted content, said compensatory payment exonerating said individual from liability related to said downloaded file.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said file-sharing service and said first payment receiver are the same entity.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining a registration from said individual occurs when said individual receives a service from a selection from the class consisting of said entity and an affiliate of said entity, said concurrent service being selected from the class consisting of telephone, subscription television, and Internet, said Internet including cable line, and DSL.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said entity incurs a debt to a second entity caused by first entity receiving said compensatory payment, said second entity being a copyright holder of said one or more files which have been downloaded by said individual,

, said debt being owed to a first copyright holder, further including said first copyright holder of said file containing copyrighted content is not among said plurality of copyright holders.

5. The method of claim 1, further including said entity controlling an algorithm to obtain said data from said individual, said algorithm emanating from a memory at a first location, to scan a memory controlled by said individual, said memory of said individual being at a second location, said first and second locations being connected via the Internet, and wherein said scan results in a determination of the number of files containing copyrighted content having been downloaded onto said memory of said individual.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of claim 1 are performed in the order which they are listed.

6. The method of claim 1, further including said individual providing a user name and password during said registration, so that said first compensatory payment is expedited by said individual providing said user name and password.

7. A method for a first compensatory payment receiver to allow an individual party to indirectly compensate at least one copyright holder of copyrighted content which exists within an electronic file, said electronic file having been downloaded from a first storage medium not represented by said at least one copyright holder to a second storage medium not represented by said at least one copyright holder wherein said second storage medium

belongs to said individual party, further including said individual party receiving exoneration from a civil and criminal liability, comprised of:

- (a) creating a contract with a group of copyright holders, said contract including at least one consensus, said at least one consensus including a first monetary amount which when charged of an individual party, constitutes permission by said group of copyright holders for said individual party to possess on a storage medium one or more files containing digitized content having a copyright held by at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders wherein the acquiring of said one or more files containing digitized content having a copyright held by at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders is resulting from downloading from a first memory storage not represented by said group of at least one copyright holders to a second memory storage not represented by said group of copyright holders, further including said second memory storage belonging to said individual party,
- (b) registering said individual party to participate in a payment process which allows said individual party to indirectly compensate at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders in return for said individual party acquiring one or more files containing digitized content having a copyright held by said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders wherein said acquiring one or more files containing digitized content having a copyright held by said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders is resulting from downloading from a first memory storage not represented by said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders to a second memory storage not represented by said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders further including said second memory storage belonging to said individual party,
- (c) acquiring data from said individual party, said data including an inventory of one or more files containing copyrighted content which has been downloaded from a first storage medium not representing said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders to said second storage medium not

representing said at least one copyright holder being represented by said group of copyright holders further including said second storage medium belonging to said individual party,

- (d) receiving from said individual party said first compensatory payment via a selection from the class consisting of a credit card transaction, a bank account debit, a personal check, and an amount being added to a bill for a concurrent service provided to said individual party by said first compensatory payment receiver, said concurrent service being a selection from the class consisting of DSL, cable line, telephone, subscription television, software, and Internet, further including said receiving of said first compensatory amount exonerating said individual party from a civil and criminal liability, and
- (e) incurring a monetary debt to a second compensatory payment receiver, said second compensatory payment receiver representing at least one copyright holder of one or more files which have been downloaded from a first memory storage not represented by said at least one copyright holder to a second memory storage not represented by said at least one copyright holder further including said second memory storage belonging to said individual party.

7. The method of claim 6, further including said registering including said first compensatory payment receiver acquiring from said individual party and storing in a data analysis system at least one item of identifying information, said data analysis system being a component of a response processing system, further including said user name and password being used to expedite said individual repeating steps a), c), and d) of this claim on a subsequent date to achieve the method desc.

8. A response processing system which represents a first payment receiver said first payment receiver representing a plurality of copyright holders, comprising:

- (a) a software program which records an inventory selected from the class consisting of one or more files while said one or more files are being downloaded onto a

storage medium of an individual party and, and one or more files which have previously been downloaded onto a storage medium of said individual party,

(b) a connection link from said storage medium of said individual party to said processing system, said processing system and said storage medium being connected via the Internet,

(c) a data analysis system which analyzes said one or more files which have been downloaded onto a storage medium of said individual party, said data analysis system being arranged to:

(1) recognize a storage medium of said individual party, said individual being previously registered with said data analysis system,

(2) retrieve data from a storage medium of said individual party, said data having been retrieved identifying said one or more files which have been downloaded onto a storage medium of said individual party, and

(3) use previously stored data including a first monetary amount to calculate the amount of a first compensatory payment to be received by said first payment receiver from said individual party.

9. The method of claim 8 further including said data analysis system using previously stored data including the amount of said first compensatory payment to calculate the amount of a second compensatory payment to be made from said first payment receiver to a second payment receiver.

9. The method of claim 8, further including said response processing system accepting a credit card payment whereby said individual has previously supplied his or her credit card number and month of expiration of said credit card.